

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the New Frankley
In Birmingham Parish Council held
at St Christopher's Church Centre,
Holly Hill, Frankley on
17 March 2003 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Eric Carter in the Chair

Councillors Linda Banks, Ian Bruckshaw, Michael Denny, Sidney Grey
MBE, William Hollis, Reverend Derek Lewis, Kathleen
Lewis, Stephen Trefor-Jones and Geoffrey Williams.

There were 4 members of the public present.

PUBLIC MINUTES

APOLOGIES

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Joanna Walker
(Holiday).

MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor
Reverend Lewis and -

- 606 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
held on 17 February 2003, having been previously
circulated were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Council Projects

- 607 The Chairperson reported that Members of the Parish Council and in
particular, Councillor Grey, were working hard on various projects –
some of which had come to fruition and others which were moving
forwards. Discussions were also taking place as to how the City's
plans for the devolution of services would effect the Parish Council.

Parish Council Office

- 608 The Chairperson reported that the Office continued to be busy
particularly on a Monday and Tuesday due to the restricted opening
hours of the Neighbourhood Office. The Parish Office was used by

Age Concern, the Pension Service, the Labour Party, the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats for surgeries. Additionally, the Office would in future be open on a Saturday morning thanks to Councillors Linda Banks and Stephen Trefor-Jones volunteering to staff the Office at that time. This would enable those residents in full-time work to visit the Office.

QUESTIONS

Report in the Evening Mail

Councillor Reverend Lewis expressed concern that in its reports on the recent trial of former Councillor David Burton, the Evening Mail had appeared to give the impression that Mr Burton was still a serving Parish Councillor. This, he felt, brought the Council into disrepute and he therefore proposed that the Council write to the Evening Mail explaining that Mr Burton resigned from the Council in December 2001 and seeking a public retraction of the impression given in the reports appearing in the Mail that Mr Burton was still a serving Parish Councillor.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Reverend Lewis, seconded by Councillor Denny and –

- 609 RESOLVED:- That the Clerk write to the Editor of the Birmingham Evening Mail explaining that Mr Burton resigned as a Parish Councillor in December 2001 and requesting that he print a retraction of the impression given in the Evening Mail reports of Mr Burton's trial that Mr Burton was still a serving member of the Parish Council.

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL, HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMMITTEE – 3 MARCH 2003

The following Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 3 March 2003 were submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 1)

- 610 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 3 March 2003 be noted.

APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID

At this point in the meeting, as officers of the Neighbourhood Forum, Councillors Bruckshaw ,Grey and Reverend Lewis declared a

prejudicial interest in the matter under consideration and left the meeting.

Frankley Neighbourhood News

The following application for Grant Aid was submitted –

(see interleaved document no. 2)

Councillor Denny proposed that the application be supported as in his opinion the Neighbourhood News was one of the best Community Newspapers. In response to a question from Councillor Trefor-Jones, the Chairperson confirmed that an acknowledgement of the support given by the Parish Council to the Neighbourhood News was included within the Newspaper.

It was proposed by Councillor Denny, seconded by Councillor Linda Banks and –

- 611 RESOLVED: That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, agree to incur the following expenditure, which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure; a grant of £96.12 towards the cost of materials in connection with the production of the production of the Frankley Neighbourhood News.

Councillors Bruckshaw, Grey and Reverend Lewis returned to the meeting.

ARBOREAL WORK

Planting of Trees Along Princess Diana Way

Councillor Grey explained that in 1997, 21 trees were planted along Princess Diana Way to celebrate 21 years of the Frankley Estate. Since that time, however, some of the trees had died whilst others had been damaged. It was now proposed, following discussions with District Councillor Green and the City Council, that the Parish Council fund the purchase of 20 replacement trees with the planting undertaken by Councillor Green, children from local schools and Members of the Parish Council. From an environmental point of view, Councillor Grey considered that the proposal would generate good publicity for the Council as it would be seen to not only be cutting down trees but also to be replanting trees.

In response to a question Councillor Grey advised that it was proposed that the Ward Rangers would undertake the maintenance of the trees.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Kane, seconded by Councillor Hollis and –

- 612 RESOLVED: That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, agree to incur the following expenditure, which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure; a grant of £1527.50 to cover the cost of 20 trees to be planted along Princess Diana Way, Frankley to replace those trees which have died or have been damaged.

Pruning of Trees

Councillor Grey explained that the proposed work needed to be carried out as it was causing problems to residents. Although a survey had been carried out by the Tree Officer of the City Council to establish which trees, in his opinion, required pruning/lopping and would therefore be included in the bid for NRF funding, that bid did not include all of the trees which in Councillor Grey's opinion required work. The work for which funding was now sought had not been included in the NRF bid but was necessary work.

It was proposed by Councillor Trefor-Jones, seconded by Councillor Bruckshaw and –

- 613 RESOLVED: That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, agree to incur the following expenditure, which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure; a grant of £375 to cover the cost reducing 4 conifers at 46 Skomer Close, Frankley and a grant of £350 to cover the cost of pruning and reshaping two trees at 33 Cornwell Road, Frankley.

TRAINING

Councillor Grey proposed that in order to assist in the training of present and future Councillors, the Council purchase, from the University of Gloucestershire, a CD-Rom which would enable Councillors to work towards a NVQ. He went on to emphasise that because of the proposed devolution of services by the City Council

and the aspiration for the Council to achieve Quality Status it would be necessary for all members to undertake appropriate training.

It was suggested by Councillor Denny and agreed, that future Agenda include an item "Training".

- 614 RESOLVED:- That approval be given to the purchase of a Training CD-Rom

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/000192/03/FUL

Enclosure of 1 metre wide strip of land with a fence at 36 Hereford Close, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham B45 0BG

- 615 The following notification of the Granting of Planning Permission was noted –

(see interleaved document no. 3)

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 616 Councillor Grey advised that he would shortly meeting with Officers of the City's Economic Development Department in order to discuss proposals relating to the Centre. He said that he intended to raise the matter of the proposals relating to the Rover car park on the Bristol Road. Originally, in the draft development plan, the area had been allocated for Retail, Hotel or Leisure Use. However, he had recently become aware that the Developers had submitted a Planning Application for a change of use to Industrial Units. He wanted to know how the Developer of the Rover site was able to get Planning Permission for a change of use fairly easily whereas there was a reluctance by the City Council to agree a change of use from Industrial to Retail for the Frankley Centre Site.

The Chairperson remarked that there was a need to get a better variety of shops in the Centre as, currently, too many people went to Northfield to do their shopping. If changes to the range of shops were not made, he was concerned that the current shops would close down and the Centre become derelict.

CROSS CITY LINE EXTENSION

Councillor Grey advised that he had recently written to Mr T McGrath, Projects Director of CENTRO to express his concern regarding a proposal to locate the Rubery Station of the Cross City Line on the

allotment. Mr McGrath confirmed that an approach had been made but that CENTRO was of the opinion that the proposed site was too isolated and that it was unlikely that Birmingham City Council would release the land. However, Mr McGrath had indicated that CENTRO had identified a 'half way house' between the two options which it was considered had possibilities and which involved moving the platform some 150m to the east of its original location. However, Councillor Grey stressed that all options, not just those from the residents of Rubery Lane, must be considered.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Frankley Police Liaison Committee

- 617 Councillor Trefor-Jones advised that the next meeting of the Frankley Police Liaison Committee would be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 27 March at the St Christopher's Church Centre.

Rubery Police Station

- 618 Councillor Trefor-Jones reported that the West Midlands Police would shortly be moving from Rubery Police Station and that, following that move, Frankley would be policed from the Longbridge Police Station.

Bus Passes

- 619 Councillor Grey advised that application for over 60's bus passes were now available from the Parish Office.

PAYMENTS

The following Schedule of Payments was submitted -

(see interleaved document no.4)

It was proposed by Councillor Denny, seconded by Councillor Bruckshaw and

- 620 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the Schedule as now submitted, be approved.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

Disabled Bus Passes

- 621 Mr G Stephenson advised that the issuing of Bus Passes for the disabled had been taken over by CENTRO. Current passes would expire at the end of the month and those residents eligible for a pass would have to re-apply to CENTRO.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

- 622 RESOLVED: That, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, which includes the following exempted information, it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and the public be temporarily excluded from the meeting and they are therefore instructed to withdraw.

Salary Award for Local Council Clerks.

Exempt information – information relating to a particular employee.

PRIVATE MINUTES

(Minute No. 623)

SALARY AWARD FOR LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

Hereon, the Clerk withdrew from the meeting during the discussion of this item. Upon his return he was advised that it had been agreed that salary of the Clerk be increased in accordance with the recommendations of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

The meeting ended at 2034 hours

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Chairperson